

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

The applicant submitted a Revocation of Power of Attorney, a new Power of Attorney, and a Statement under 37 C.F.R. 3.73(b) on January 3, 2003. The applicant respectfully requests that the Attorney's Docket No. be changed to 26BT-036.

The applicant notes with appreciation the acknowledgement of the claim for priority under 35 USC §119 and the notice that all of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

The applicant also appreciates the acknowledgement and approval of the previously submitted proposed drawing corrections.

Claims 1, 2, 4-5 and 8-11 have been rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Specifically, the Examiner indicated that it was unclear how, as recited in claim 1, the flange cannot form a wall of the attachment groove when it was set forth that the root portion of the flange provides for the U-shaped attachment groove. In response, the language of claim 1, which has been incorporated into claim 11, has been clarified with regard to the configuration of the flange and attachment groove. Claim 1 has been canceled, and claims 2, 4-5 and 8-11 have been amended to depend from claim 11, which has been written in independent form including all of the limitations of canceled claim 1.

In particular, claim 11 currently recites that the U-shaped attachment groove is provided at the root portion of a flange and that the flange and attachment groove are partitioned by the lock protrusion strip of the attachment groove. Support for the further details of claim 11 not previously recited in canceled claim 1 can be found, for example, in Figs. 1-3, 5, 8 and 10. Specifically, although the flange 17a and the U-shaped attachment groove 17c are integrally formed, the integral piece is partitioned by the lock protrusion strip 17d. This amendment to

claim 11 was added only to provide definiteness and clarity and does not introduce new issues.

Therefore, the applicant respectfully requests that the 35 USC §112 rejection be withdrawn

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 8-10 have been rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by British Patent Publication No. 2 312 460. Claim 1 has been canceled. Therefore the rejection of claim 1 under 35 USC §102(b) will not be discussed.

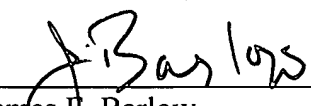
The Examiner has indicated that claim 11 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, claim 11 has been amended to include all of the limitations of claim 1, which has been canceled, and to overcome the rejection under 35 USC §112 as discussed above. Claims 2, 4, 5 and 8-10 depend from claim 11, either directly or indirectly, and are thus in allowable form.

Although a final office action has been issued, entry of this amendment is respectfully requested, since this amendment simply rewrites an allowable but objectionable claim in independent form and adds wording to overcome a 35 USC §112 rejection.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the present application is now believed to be in condition for allowance. A prompt notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Please charge any additional unforeseen fees that may be due to Deposit Account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,



James B. Barlow
Reg. No. 32,377

Posz & Bethards, PLC
11250 Roger Bacon Drive, Suite 10
Reston, VA 20190
(703) 707-9110
Customer No. 23400